

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
BOARD MEETING
Friday, January 16, 2009

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) met at 9:00 a.m. at the offices of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Room 507, of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi, on Friday, January 16, 2009.

Members present: Mr. George Walker, Mrs. Brenda Yonge, Mr. Chip Crane, Mr. Ed Perry, Mr. Napoleon Moore, Mr. Max Huey, Mr. Bubba Hudspeth, Mrs. Patricia Dickens, and Mr. Bobby Steinriede. The following member was absent: *Mr. Bruce Martin*.

SBCJC Staff in attendance: Dr. Eric Clark, Mrs. Mitzy Johnson, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Dr. Debra West, Dr. Fiona Qualls, Dr. Larry Day, Mr. Ray Smith, Mr. Kell Smith and Mrs. Missy Saxton.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Reggie Sykes, Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL); Mr. Chuck Rubisoff, Office of the Attorney General, and Dr. Willis Lott, MS Gulf Coast Community College.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and provided the meeting notice for the February 19th and 20th meetings. The State Board for Community & Junior Colleges Committee-of-the-Whole meeting will be held February 19, 2009 at Huntington's Grille in Jackson at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will reconvene at the Hilton Hotel Hattiesburg Room at 7:30. The Board Meeting will be held on February 20, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 507 of the Education & Research Building.

PRELIMINARIES

Mr. Napoleon Moore gave the invocation.

Approval of December 18 and 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes

In a motion made by Mr. Bubba Hudspeth and seconded by Mr. Max Huey, the SBCJC board **voted unanimously** to approve the minutes of the December 18 and 19, 2008 SBCJC board meeting.

Approval of Agenda

In a motion made by Mrs. Patricia Dickens and seconded by Mr. Napoleon Moore, the SBCJC board **voted unanimously** for approval of the day's agenda.

REPORTS/ACTION

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Clark reported to Board Members that he participated in a telephone conference call with Mr. Blake Wilson, head of the Mississippi Economic Council (MEC), and Dr. Willis Lott and Dr. Clyde Muse, where upon Drs. Clark, Lott and Muse asked for Mr. Wilson's support of the community college's legislative program. Dr. Clark hopes to participate in a conference call with the MEC Board of Directors to ask them to support our push for workforce training funds.

Dr. Clark provided an update on the Southwest Community College proposed disaster training program. Congressman Gregg Harper has lent his support to this project and he and Dr. Clark have visited with officials at SWCC.

Dr. Clark, Dr. West and Mr. Kell Smith met with Mrs. Marie Antoon, Executive Director of Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB). There is the possibility that MPB will have the opportunity to dedicate a channel specifically to workforce information.

Dr. Clark attended a meeting where Governor Haley Barbour talked about the need for workforce training and funding. The MEC has provided information regarding the top three tiers that outside companies look at when trying to decide to do business in Mississippi. The top tier of the three levels is having and providing a skilled workforce.

MEC's Capitol Day was held January 8th. Later that day, Drs. Clark, Muse, Lott and Sutphin met with the Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor to discuss our legislative program and seek their support.

On January 13, Dr. Clark and Mr. Kell Smith attended the Governor's State-of-the-State address. The Governor went to great lengths to support workforce training in his address.

On January 21, the joint Articulation Agreement committee will meet. Dr. Clark has talked with Dr. Aubrey Lucas, Interim Commission of IHL, about the importance of the Articulation Agreement. Dr. Lucas, having been president of USM and DSU, understands the importance of this Agreement and supports all efforts to improve it.

There is a strategic planning retreat for community college presidents on January 27 and 28 at Eagle Ridge Training Center in Raymond. Dr. Clark wants to encourage the presidents to ask for more county millage support from their respective counties, as well as getting business and government to buy in to tuition guarantees for students.

Dr. Clark mentioned the federal economic stimulus plan as a possible funding source for the proposed SBCJC headquarters. Several Board Members commented on this possibility and encouraged Dr. Clark to try and get in at the "front of the line" with Governor Barbour to receive stimulus funds.

Senator Dean Kirby, chairman of the State Bond committee has said that he does not want to move forward on any bond bills until he sees what the stimulus package holds for Mississippi.

Dr. Clark and Mrs. Gilbert reported on our budget cuts. Mrs. Gilbert advises that the

total dollar amount cut is approximately \$388,000 and of this amount, approximately \$246,000 or sixty-three percent of the total is a cut to workforce funds.

In response to the cuts to workforce training funds, Mr. Walker suggested that the board send a letter to all members of the Legislature and the Governor and Lt. Governor, asking them to continue funding workforce funding because of its importance to economic development in Mississippi.

In a motion made by Mrs. Patricia Dickens and seconded Mr. Bobby Steinriede, the SBCJC **voted unanimously** to have a letter written by SBCJC Staff and sent to all members of the Legislature, the Governor and Lt. Governor, asking for them to continue to support workforce funding because of its importance to economic development in Mississippi.

Dr. Clark concluded his report.

MACJC Report

Dr. Willis Lott, president of the MACJC Association, provided the MACJC report to SBCJC Board Members. He informed the Board Members of the intent of the strategic planning retreat on January 27 and 28 at Eagle Ridge. He wants to bring awareness of the CJC system to legislators, businesses, civic groups and communities. Fundraising efforts will be discussed. Dr. Lott indicated that the Lt. Governor verbally supports Mid-Level Funding. Dr. Lott said that Mid-Level Funding has as much credibility and legal status as MAEP funding. Dr. Lott reminded the SBCJC Board Members that MGCCC is going to host the May SBCJC Meeting on Thursday, May 14 and Friday, May 15, 2009.

Dr. Lott concluded his report.

Mr. Walker called for a recess at 9:45 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 9:55 a.m.

Workforce Report

Dr. Debra West presented the Workforce report; **Exhibit A**. Projects are continuing to be funded, with five projects pending and one project needing modification. Dr. West discussed Workforce Enhancement Training funds, or WET funds. There are three triggers that could eliminate the WET funds. Given the current economy, MDES is predicting that one of these triggers could occur as early as 2010. The potential is there for WET funds to be eliminated in one year. Those funds make up eighty-eight percent of all the money that is used for workforce training.

Grants Report

Dr. West provided the Grants report, **Exhibit B**. This is the standard Grants report information, including all grants issued. Dr. West concluded her report.

College Outreach Report

Dr. Larry Day provided the College Outreach report. He has been invited to be a member of the African American Male Initiative Committee. This is sponsored by IHL

and chaired by Dr. Reggie Sykes. He feels this initiative will have a direct positive impact on workforce issues as well as quality of life. Dr. Sykes added that the committee would have a final report by May 2009. Dr. Sykes will be presenting the final report to the IHL board and would also like to present the report to the SBCJC Board. Dr. Day concluded his report.

Program Report

Dr. Fiona Qualls provided the Program report. She presented **Exhibit C**, which is a modification of the Location of Classes that Dr. Day presented in December. One location has been added for East Central Community College.

In a motion made by Mr. Chip Crane and seconded by Mr. Max Huey, the SBCJC **voted unanimously** to approve the amended Location of Classes, to include the additional location for East Central Community College.

Mrs. Eloise Richardson provided the ABE/GED report. She provided a newsletter, "Thursday Notes" from the US Department of Education. There are several trainings this month that the ABE and GED instructors will be attending. They held a great full-time instructor conference several months ago and continue to be encouraged by the dedication that these instructors have for their students and the ABE/GED program. She provided the Success Calendar to all SBCJC Members. Mrs. Richardson has participated in several phone calls with the National Consortium personnel in Washington D.C. and has provided information to President Obama's transition team regarding the importance of adult education.

Dr. Qualls reported that the enrollment verification revamp meeting will be held soon. The enrollment verification process is a very cumbersome and complicated system. The way we count our students, and thereby the way that the community colleges receive their funding, is not at all comparable to the way IHL or MDE receives their funding. A team has been put together representing various positions from colleges such as registrars, finance personnel and technical personnel. The first major meeting will be held next week to ask questions about what is wrong with the enrollment verification process. It will require rewording our appropriation bill language, which is something that the SBCJC staff is drafting.

Dr. Qualls reported that the first Articulation Agreement meeting of the year will be held January 21. With the big rewriting of the Agreement last year, smaller items will be handled this year.

Technology Report

Mr. Ray Smith provided the Technology report. He represented Dr. Clark at a presentation to Representative Cecil Brown and other members of the legislature on behalf of the Council for Educational Technology (CET). Representative Brown asked for the presentation and had asked about providing broadband internet to rural areas of the state. Mr. Smith concluded his report.

Research and Planning Report

Mrs. Mitzy Johnson provided a handout to Board Members, **Exhibit D**, to assist with the Research & Planning report. She has gathered current student and enrollment information and provided it in the form of a Fact Sheet for FY 08 and as compared to national trends. She concluded her report.

Legislative Report

Mr. Kell Smith provided information regarding the active bills in the Legislature concerning community colleges. He is enjoying his time at the Capitol and is enjoying being involved in the entire Legislative process. He further encourages the Board Members to keep in touch with their legislators in support of the community colleges. He concluded his report.

Finance Report

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert presented the Finance report and referred SBCJC members to the Finance agenda tab.

Attachment 1 is the approval request for General Fund 2298 Disbursements for February 2009, Aid to Colleges, in the amount of \$12,302,167.00.

In a motion made by Mr. Ed Perry and seconded by Mr. Chip Crane, the SBCJC **voted unanimously** to approve the request for General Fund 2298 Disbursements for February 2009, Aid to Colleges, in the amount of \$12,302,167.00.

Attachments 2a and 2b are the approval requests for the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for January 31, 2009, in the **total amount of \$2,953,452.00**. The breakdown is Fund 4080 in the amount of \$2,871,341.00 and Fund 4110 in the amount of \$82,111.00.

In a motion made by Mr. Chip Crane and seconded by Mrs. Patricia Dickens, the SBCJC **voted unanimously** to approve the requests for the Education Enhancement Fund Disbursements for January 31, 2009, in the total amount of \$2,953,452.00. The breakdown is Fund 4080 in the amount of \$2,871,341.00 and Fund 4110 in the amount of \$82,111.00.

Attachment 3 is the approval request for the Budget Contingency Fund Disbursements for February 2009, from Fund 3296, in the amount of \$662,625.00.

In a motion made by Mr. Ed Perry and seconded by Mr. Bobby Steinriede, the SBCJC **voted unanimously** to approve the Budget Contingency Fund Disbursements for February 2009, from Fund 3296, in the amount of \$662,625.00.

Attachments 4a and 4b are the Financial Statements for Fund 2291 and Special Funds as of December 31, 2008. These reports are all for informational purposes only.

Attachment 5 is the Purchasing Approval Request for Software Support for 526 Plato Software licenses for Adult Basic Education (ABE). This is for the period of May 1, 2009,

through April 30, 2010, in the amount of \$47,740.50.

In a motion made by Mr. Ed Perry and seconded by Mr. Chip Crane, the SBCJC **voted unanimously** to approve the request for Software Support for 526 Plato Software licenses for Adult Basic Education (ABE). This is for the period of May 1, 2009, through April 30, 2010, in the amount of \$47,740.50.

Attachments 6a and 6b are the requests for Approval of Form Z-1 Changes for January Budget Cuts for FY 2009. The Support Budget cut is three percent or \$7,373,521.00 and the Administration Budget cut is three percent or \$233,072.00.

In a motion made by Mr. Bobby Steinriede and seconded by Mr. Chip Crane, the SBCJC **voted unanimously** to approve the requests of Form Z-1 Changes for January Budget Cuts for FY 2009. The Support Budget cut is three percent or \$7,373,521.00 and the Administration Budget cut is three percent or \$233,072.00.

Mrs. Gilbert concluded the Finance Report.

Travel Authorizations

Mrs. Patricia Dickens, Mr. Max Huey and Mr. Bubba Hudspeth attended the House Appropriation Committee Meeting on January 15, 2009.

In a motion made by Mr. Ed Perry and seconded by Mr. Bubba Hudspeth, the SBCJC board **voted unanimously** to approve Mrs. Patricia Dickens, Mr. Max Huey and Mr. Bubba Hudspeth's travel to attend the House Appropriation Committee Meeting on January 15, 2009.

Other Business

In a motion made by Mr. Ed Perry and seconded by Mrs. Patricia Dickens, the SBCJC board **voted unanimously** to close the meeting to determine the need for an executive session.

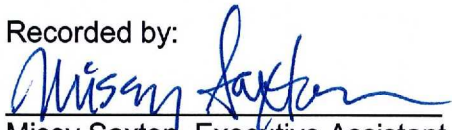
Following the discussion, in a motion made by Mr. Ed Perry and seconded by Mrs. Patricia Dickens, the SBCJC board **voted unanimously** to go into executive session to discuss the performance review of the Executive Director.

At the conclusion of the discussion in executive session, no action was taken and the meeting was reopened.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no other business, Mr. Walker adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Recorded by:


Missy Saxton, Executive Assistant

SBCJC Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 16, 2009

Approved by:


Mr. George Walker, Chairman


Dr. Eric Clark, Executive Director

Exhibits:

Workforce	Exhibit A
Grants	Exhibit B
Location of Classes	Exhibit C
Research & Planning	Exhibit D